(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government for speedy disposal of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) Border Security Force (BSF) has reported that no incident of clashes and theft between BSF and rural persons occurred at Indo-Pak Border during the last three years;

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

[English]

Royalty Rates of Minerals

147. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of minerals available in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether many State Governments have demanded to revise the royalty rate of minerals;

(c) if so, the names of such States; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) . (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) to (d). As per Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals, (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, royalty cannot be enhanced in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The last revision in respect of major minerals (non-fuel) was effected on 17.2.92. The Central Govt. constituted a Study Group for revision of royalty for major minerals (non-fuel) in January, 1995. The Study Group after due deliberasions, has since submitted its recommendations to the Central Government.

Yamuna Action Plan

148. SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT OF FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far under the Yamuna Action Plan;

(b) whether the work on Yamuna Action Plan in proceeding at a very slow pace;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete measures being taken to activise the implementing agencies and the time span for completion of major segments of the work under the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) A total of 68 schemes of pollution abatement, which include some of the major schemes of Interception and Diversion and Sewage Treatment, have been sanctioned so far under the Yamuna Action Plan. These works are in different stages of completion An amount of Rs. 32.61 crore has been released till date to the concerned State Governments towards the 50% share of the Central Government for expenditure on the Yamuna Action Plan.

(b) and (c). The progress of the Yamuna Action Plan at present is satisfactory. However, there were some delays during the initial period of the action plan. These were mainly on account of the selection of appropriate technologies for sewage treatment with a view to making the programme sustainable.

(d) The progress of work is monitored regularly at different levels in the State as well as the Central Governments to minimise slippages. In addition, a team of consultants also monitors the progress of all works on a regular basis. The action plan is scheduled to be completed by March, 1999.

Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project

149. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala is pending with the Government for want of the environment and forests clearance;

(b) since when this project has been referred for clearance; and

(c) the decision being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project in Kerala was accorded environment Clearance in June, 1985 suggesting safeguard and mitigative measures for protection of the environment Proposal for diversion of 3001 8 ha. of forest land under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 was received in 1987 from State Government and was rejected on merit in January 1991 due to its likely adverse ecological impacts. Subsequently on the request of the State Government, the proposal was again received in the Ministry and rejected in June, 1996.

[Translation]

Assistance to Farmers

150. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV Will the Minister AGRICULTURE be pleased to state .

(a) the details of various schemes implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture under which concessions and assistance is being made available to the farmers;

(b) the value of such concessions and assistance made available to them during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the quantum of such concessions and assistance and